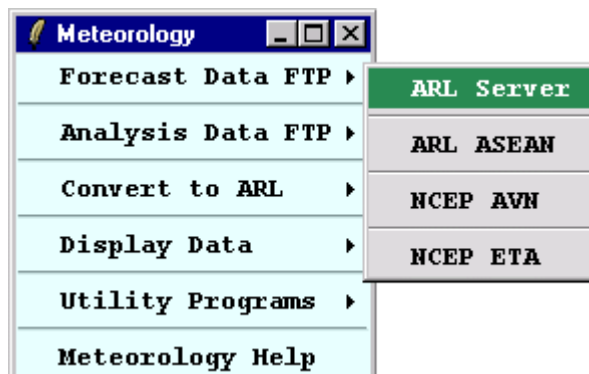# Forecast Data FTP Access

There are four options under the "Forecast Data FTP" menu tab, all of which access NOAA computer systems. The "ARL" options access the Air Resources Laboratories data server and the "NCEP" options access the National Center's for Environmental Prediction' data server. All data available from the ARL server have already been converted to a HYSPLIT compatible format. The NCEP menu's access GRIB data and these data are converted during the download process. Note that ARL forecast data consist of one file – the most recent forecast available, while the NCEP data consist of one GRIB file per forecast time. Each one is processed in sequence. The last several forecast cycles are usually available for download.

The ARL Server

The data on the ARL server covers for 3 geographic domains. The ETA, RUC (Rapid Update Cycle), and AFWA (Air Force Weather) cover North America. The AVN (from the GFS - global forecast system) covers the northern and southern hemispheres. The GFS global output GFS is available on a latitude-longitude grid at three different temporal and spatial resolutions: (GFS to +4 d, GFSx to +8 d, and GFSLR to +12 d). Prior to selecting "Get Data File", a valid Email address should be entered into the password field. The menu system will "lock-up" until the FTP has completed. The only way to break out would be to kill the FTP process through the windows task manager.